Application No. 10/085,333
Amendment dated December 15, 2003
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2003

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): A column for providing a vertical support to a building, the column comprising:

a concrete foundation column for planting in an area of earth, a proximal end of said foundation column protruding from said earth when said concrete foundation column is planted therein; and

a wood column, said wood column secured to said proximal end of said concrete foundation column, said wood column substantially vertically oriented, wherein said foundation column includes at least one reinforcing bar therein, wherein a proximal end of said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, said wood column positioned intermediate said arms, said wood column secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Application No. 10/085,333
Amendment dated December 15, 2003
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2003

Same as 8

Claim 9 (previously presented): A column for providing a vertical support to a building, the column comprising:

b1 Cont

a concrete foundation column for planting in an area of earth, a proximal end of said foundation column protruding from said earth when said concrete foundation column is planted therein; and

a wood column, said wood column secured to said proximal end of said concrete foundation column, said wood column substantially vertically oriented, wherein said foundation column includes at least one U-shaped reinforcing bar therein, wherein said U-shaped reinforcing bar has a pair of ends, said pair of ends affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, said wood column positioned intermediate said arms, said wood column secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Same as 9

Claim 10 (previously presented): A column for providing a vertical support to a building, the column comprising:

a concrete foundation column for planting in an area of earth, a proximal end of said foundation column protruding from said earth when said concrete foundation column is planted therein; and

a wood column, said wood column secured to said proximal end of said concrete foundation column, said wood column substantially vertically oriented, wherein said foundation column includes four reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bars substantially evenly spaced about a longitudinal axis of said foundation column, wherein a proximal end of each said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a

pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, said wood column positioned intermediate said arms, said wood column secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket, said foundation column having a plurality of reinforcing bar spacers, each said reinforcing bar spacer affixed to an adjacent pair of reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bar spacers affixed to a substantially distal end of said reinforcing bars.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A column for providing a vertical support to a building, the column comprising:

a concrete foundation column for planting in an area of earth, a proximal end of said foundation column protruding from said earth when said concrete foundation column is planted therein; and

a wood column, said wood column secured to said proximal end of said concrete foundation column, said wood column substantially vertically oriented, wherein said foundation column includes a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, said wood column positioned intermediate said arms, said wood column secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Claims 12 - 22 (cancelled)

Application No. 10/085,333
Amendment dated December 15, 2003
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2003

Same as claim 8

Claim 23 (previously presented): A post-frame building, comprising:

a plurality of concrete foundation columns, each said foundation column planted in an area of earth, a proximal end of each said concrete foundation column protruding from said earth;

a plurality of wood columns, said columns secured to said proximal ends of said concrete foundation columns; and

a roofing member attached to said columns, said roofing member defining an exterior roof of the building, said roofing member substantially entirely covering a foot print of the building;

wherein each said foundation column comprises a precast concrete column;

wherein each said foundation column contains at least one reinforcing bar therein; and wherein a proximal end of said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, one of said wood columns positioned intermediate said arms, said wood columns secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Same as 9

Claim 24 (previously presented): A post-frame building, comprising:

a plurality of concrete foundation columns, each said foundation column planted in an area of earth, a proximal end of each said concrete foundation column protruding from said earth;

a plurality of wood columns, said columns secured to said proximal ends of said concrete foundation columns; and

a roofing member attached to said columns, said roofing member defining an exterior roof of the building, said roofing member substantially entirely covering a foot print of the building;

wherein each said foundation column comprises a precast concrete column;

wherein each said foundation column contains at least one U-shaped reinforcing bar therein; and wherein said U-shaped reinforcing bar has a pair of ends, said pair of ends affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, one of said wood columns positioned intermediate said arms, said wood columns secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A post-frame building, comprising:

a plurality of concrete foundation columns, each said foundation column planted in an area of earth, a proximal end of each said concrete foundation column protruding from said earth;

a plurality of wood columns, said columns secured to said proximal ends of said concrete foundation columns; and

a roofing member attached to said columns, said roofing member defining an exterior roof of the building, said roofing member substantially entirely covering a foot print of the building;

wherein each said foundation column comprises a precast concrete column:

wherein each said foundation column contains four reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bars substantially evenly spaced about a longitudinal axis of said foundation column; and

wherein a proximal end of each said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation

column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, one of said wood columns positioned intermediate said arms, said wood columns secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket, said foundation column having a plurality of reinforcing bar spacers, each said reinforcing bar spacer affixed to an adjacent pair of reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bar spacers affixed to a substantially distal end of said reinforcing bars.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A post-frame building, comprising:

a plurality of concrete foundation columns, each said foundation column planted in an area of earth, a proximal end of each said concrete foundation column protruding from said earth;

a plurality of wood columns, said columns secured to said proximal ends of said concrete foundation columns; and

a roofing member attached to said columns, said roofing member defining an exterior roof of the building, said roofing member substantially entirely covering a foot print of the building, wherein each said-foundation column includes a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, one of said wood columns positioned intermediate said arms, said wood columns secured to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

Claims 27-28 (cancelled)

Application No. 10/085,333
Amendment dated December 15, 2003
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2003

10) as claimed

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method of constructing a post-frame building, comprising:

planting a plurality of concrete foundation columns in the earth about a perimeter of the building;

affixing a wood column to each said foundation column, said wood column being substantially vertically oriented when affixed to said foundation column; and

b) Cont

constructing the building using the wood columns as vertical supports, wherein each said foundation column contains at least one reinforcing bar therein.

10) as claim 9

Claim 30 (currently amended): A method of constructing a post-frame building, comprising:

planting a plurality of concrete foundation columns in the earth about a perimeter of the building;

affixing a wood column to each said foundation column, said wood column being substantially vertically oriented when affixed to said foundation column; and

constructing the building using the wood columns as vertical supports, wherein each said foundation column contains at least one U-shaped reinforcing bar therein.

10) as claim 10

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method of constructing a post-frame building, comprising:

planting a plurality of concrete foundation columns in the earth about a perimeter of the building;

affixing a wood column to each said foundation column, said wood column being substantially vertically oriented when affixed to said foundation column; and

constructing the building using the wood columns as vertical supports, wherein each said foundation column contains four reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bars substantially evenly spaced about a longitudinal axis of said foundation column.

10) as claim 8

Claim 32 (original): The method of Claim 29, wherein a proximal end of said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a

concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, and wherein said step of affixing a wood column to each said foundation column comprises the steps of:

positioning said wood column intermediate said arms; and

securing said wood column to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

61 cont

102 as claim 9

Claim 33 (original): The method of Claim 30, wherein said U-shaped reinforcing bar has a pair of ends, said pair of ends affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, and wherein said step of affixing a wood column to each said foundation column comprises the steps of:

positioning said wood column intermediate said arms; and

securing said wood column to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

103 as claim 10

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of Claim 31, wherein a proximal end of each said reinforcing bar is affixed to a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, said foundation column having a plurality of reinforcing bar spacers, each said reinforcing bar spacer affixed to an adjacent pair of reinforcing bars, said reinforcing bar spacers affixed to a substantially distal

end of said reinforcing bars, and wherein said step of affixing a wood column to each said foundation column comprises the steps of:

positioning said wood column intermediate said arms; and

securing said wood column to said foundation columns via said column bracket.

10' cont (2nd as Claim 11)

Claim 35 (previously presented): A method of constructing a post-frame building, comprising:

planting a plurality of concrete foundation columns in the earth about a perimeter of the building;

affixing a wood column to each said foundation column, said wood column being substantially vertically oriented when affixed to foundation column; and

constructing the building using the wood columns as vertical supports, wherein said foundation column includes a column bracket, said column bracket positioned adjacent a proximal end of a concrete column body of said foundation column, said column bracket comprising a base and a pair of depending arms extending from said base, said base positioned adjacent said proximal end of said concrete column body of said foundation column, said arms extending proximally from said proximal end of said concrete column body, and wherein said step of affixing a wood column to each said foundation column comprises the steps of:

positioning said wood column intermediate said arms; and

securing said wood column to said foundation columns via said column bracket.